## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend claims as set forth below.

1. (Currently Amended)  A file management device for managing, with an index file recorded in a recording medium, ~~and~~ a file recorded in the recording medium,

wherein the index file includes a series of entries comprising, in block, information extracted from a file recorded in the recording medium, information about a file correlated to a folder set in the recording medium, and information about the folder, and layer information which indicates layer structures of the file and the folder by ~~layer information~~ pointing to other entries ~~set in the entry~~;

wherein ~~an~~ the entry ~~of~~ for the information about the folder includes registration information which indicates ~~the~~ files belonging to the folder by ~~registration information~~ pointing to other entries, and identifying information that indicates, ~~by identifying information,~~ whether or not the ~~corresponding~~ folder is a virtual folder;

wherein the file management device retrieves ~~an the entry~~ entries of the index file according to conditions for retrieval set by a user to select a file registered in the index file, and registers, as an entry for the virtual folder, a retrieval result as to the selected file in the index file, along with the conditions for retrieval; and

wherein, when the entry for the retrieval result is registered, information indicating that the entry ~~of the retrieval result~~ is for ~~a~~ the retrieval result ~~of retrieval~~ is set in the index file,

wherein the layer information is set so as to indicate that the virtual folder for the retrieval result is under a virtual retrieval result collection folder in which retrieval results are collected, and the registration information is set to point to entries of the selected file.

2. (Currently Amended) A file managing method of managing a file recorded in a recording medium with an index file recorded in the recording medium,

wherein the index file includes a series of entries comprising, in block, information extracted from a file recorded in the recording medium, information about a file correlated to a folder set in the recording medium, and information about the folder, and layer information which indicates layer structures of the file and the folder by layer information pointing to other entries set in the entry; and

wherein an the entry of for the information about the folder includes registration information that indicates the files belonging to the folder by registration information pointing to other entries, and identifying information which indicates, by identifying information, whether or not the corresponding folder is a virtual folder;

said method comprising:

a step of retrieving the entries of the index file according to retrieval conditions set by a user to select a file registered in the index file;

a step of registering, as an entry for the virtual folder, a retrieval result about the selected file in the index file, along with the conditions for retrieval;

a step of setting information indicating that the entry of the retrieval result is for a the retrieval result of retrieval in the index file, and

a step of setting the layer information so as to indicate that the virtual folder for the retrieval result is under a virtual retrieval result collection folder in which retrieval results are collected; and

a step of setting the registration information to point to entries of the selected file.

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3. (Currently amended)  The file managing method according to claim 2, wherein retrieval of ~~an entry~~ the entries of the index file in the retrieving step is performed by refining the conditions for retrieval registered in the entry for the retrieval result.

4. (Cancel)

5. (Cancel)

6. (Currently amended) The file management device according to claim 1, wherein retrieval of ~~an entry~~ the entries of the index file in the retrieving step is performed by refining the conditions for retrieval registered in the entry for the result of retrieval.

7. (Previously presented) The file management device according to claim 1, wherein in a retrieval processing, when the file management device determines that the conditions for retrieval are identical to any of those already registered in the virtual folder, the file management device displays the retrieval result performed in past under the identical conditions for retrieval.

8. (Previously presented) The file management device according to claim 1, wherein updating date is registered in the entry for the virtual folder.

9. (Previously presented) The file management device according to claim 8, wherein the file management device determines that the number of entries for retrieval results is larger than a predetermined number, the file management device deletes an entry with the oldest update date.